

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Gatling called the meeting to order at 7:08p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Councilmember Latasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant (Late 7:25p.m.), Councilmember Darrell Hardy (ABSENT), Councilmember Kelly Porter (Left Meeting at 8:19p.m.), Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Tiara Andrews, Code Enforcement Officer, Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Dashaun Lanham, City Clerk, Johnny Thompson, Public Works Director.

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The Invocation was given by Councilmember Reveral Yeargin.

1.1.4 Approval of Agenda:

It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

1.1.5. Reading/Approval of Regular Work Session, Special Session and Public Session Meeting Minutes from the month of November.

- Council President Gatling asked the City Council to review the Regular Work Session Minutes for the Monday, November 2, 2009 for any changes.
- The City Council review the minutes for Monday, November 2, 2009 Regular Work Session Meeting. It was motioned by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

- Council President Gatling asked the City Council to review the Special Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, November 2, 2009 for any changes.
- The City Council reviewed the minutes for the Monday, November 2, 2009 Special Session Meeting. It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Simms to approve the minutes. The motion carried.
- Council President Gatling asked the City Council to review the Public Session Meeting Minutes for the Monday, November 9, 2009 Meeting for any changes.
- The City Council reviewed the minutes for the Monday, November 9, 2009 Public Session Meeting. It was motioned by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilmember Yeargin to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

- Council President Gatling presented the certificate of completion to Dashaun Lanham, City Clerk for attending Old Dominion University in Virginia. She congratulated the City Clerk for completion of the training to keep her abreast of her job functions.

3. LEGISLATION:

- Ordinance O-10-02 To Amend FY2009-2010 Budget, Introduced by City Council on Monday, December 7, 2009 and the first reading was declared, and the second reading was held on Monday, December 14, 2009. It was motion by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve Ordinance O-10-02. The motion carried
FOR: Gatling, Porter, Raynor, Simms and Yeargin
AGAINST: None
ABSTAIN: None
- Ordinance O-10-03 To Amend FY2009-2010 Budget, Introduced by City Council on Monday, December 14, 2009, and the first reading was declared.
- Resolution 10-11 To Amend Resolution 10-09 To Adopt a Hiring Freeze, Introduced by City Council on Monday, December 14, 2009. It was motioned by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve Resolution 10-11. The motion carried.
FOR: Gatling, Porter, Raynor, Simms and Yeargin
AGAINST: None
ABSTAIN: None

4. REPORTS:

4.1 Mayor- Eugene W. Grant

- Mayor Grant reported that he participated in the lecture at the University of Maryland; School of Public Health in the month of November to bring more resources to our community. He will provide a copy of the speech to the City Council.
- He met with Council President Gatling regarding promoting Economic Growth, and a report will be coming in the future from them on the meeting.
- He attended a Partnership Meeting with Mayor and Council of Capitol Heights, and Seat Pleasant Council to discuss partnering together as the Port Towns, which consist of Bladensburg, Colmar Manor and others with their CDC's.
- He was elected First Vice President of National Conference of Black Mayors last month. This position provides his greater access to the White House with the hopes of bringing in revenue to the City.
- He met with residents in Ward II regarding the tax structure in Prince George's County, as we depend on residential taxes more than businesses.
- He commended the Council in their efforts in working together and the open dialogue with the Office of the Mayor.
- Tim McNeil, Deputy Assistant to Mayor reported that the Maryland Black Mayor's signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Home Free USA. They stated that residents aren't seeking services regarding the crisis. They are located in Prince George's Plaza. They are willing to come to municipality and provide foreclosure counseling by assisting them with loan restructure starting January 2010.
- Tim reported that the Census forms are due April 1, 2010 is imperative that we each complete the form, but the speculation is that African American men from the age of 18-30 will not complete the form. Government monies are given according to the Census. We have requested a \$2,500.00 for a Community Rally early next year.
- Tim reported on the funding that has been identified by Grisby & Associates through the stimulus Build America Bond program. They have identified \$1.4Million, and are looking for 5million to assist with the refurbishing of the John E. Feggans Center.
- Mayor Grant stated that it is important to talk to your neighbors regarding census. We will short change ourselves in CDBG and Social Services. The participation in the Census governs the monies from the Federal dollars.

4.2 Council President- LaTasha Gatling, Councilmember-At-Large

- Councilmember Gatling stated that her report is on the table and the residents can read it quietly.

4.3 Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department- Chief Dave McGill, Vice President

- Councilwoman Gatling read the report in the absence of Chief McGill.
- They received 395 calls in the month of November, and the Year-to-date calls total is 7, 227.
- Seat Pleasant calls for the month of November was 88, and the Year-to-date is 491.
- Seat Pleasant had 2 major incidents calls in the month of November, and 11 accidents calls.
- They have 680 volunteer hours, and 5,791 volunteer hours year-to-date
- They have one upcoming Fundraiser with Verizon. When you order a new product or FIOS Service some of the proceeds will go the Fire Department
- November 9, 2009 Seat Pleasant members ran a house fire at 6700 block of James Farmer Way
- November 10, 2009 Seat Pleasant members ran a shooting at Pepper Mill Dr and Pepper St to find 1 male shot in the back from and attempted robbery. The victim was flown to Baltimore Shock Trauma due to the extent of his injuries.

4.4 City Administrator-Robert Ashton (Acting)

- Mr. Ashton commended Councilwoman Gatling on working on Bond Bill for the John E. Feggans Center. He received preliminary site plane that can be used in support of the Bond Bill request with Senator Exum and Delegate Benson.
- Police Department Communication Center seeking assistance from grants under the Government Office of Crime Control. We have spoken with SunTrust Bank regarding a Lease Purchase
- Chief of Police-Executive Director of Chief Association will be forwarding names to the City Council for consideration of their recommendation.
- He mentioned the Tax Assessment notices will be mailed by the end of December, and for the resident to ensure they use code: 1721 on the labels.

4.5 Code Enforcement-Tiara Andrews

- The property located at 5819 Martin Luther King, Jr had a fire in the property last month. The previous owner transferred the property into his cousin name. We will need to start the process over in getting the property condemned.
- The property located at 6300 Addison Road went to court last month with zoning violation. They signed an agreement to vacate the property in 60 days.
- Mayor Grant wanted to know status/process of condemnation of a property. Ms. Andrews stated the structure must be unsafe for the property to be condemned. Mayor Grant recommended that she look at the process of Nuisance, and involve the elected officials. He recommended that she meet with Ms. Rhoda and Mr. Ashton so they can request a meeting the judges. Councilwoman Gatling agreed and stated that she wanted Mrs. Lanham involved in the process.
- 413 71st Avenue has been cleaned by the Public Works Department. All debris has been moved to date.

4.6 Finance Department-Robert Ashton, City Treasurer

- **Mr. Ashton report was provided in written format (see attach)**

4.7 Police Department-Sgt. Patterson (Absent)

- Please review written report (see attached)

4.8 Public Works Department-Johnny Thompson (Director)

- The Public Works Department is engaged in soliciting bids from various contractors to install and erect either a Pavilion or an Amphitheatre located in Goodwin Park.
- The Public Works Department is working to improve our snow removal process and preparing our salt spreaders and snow plows. We have purchased a small portable salt spreader that mounts on the back of one our pickup trucks. We are asking the public to assist us by listening out for the snow alert and have your vehicles properly parked.
- The Public Works Department has received a number of requests regarding the leaf pick up scheduled. Our current equipment is antiquated, which makes it impossible to follow a schedule. We are honoring request, and will be prioritizing all request when the equipment is functioning. We are requesting

that you rack your leaves to curb. The last day will be picking up from the curb will be December 17, 2009.

- The Public Works Department has received a number of telephone calls regarding gutters being cleaned. The department doesn't clean gutters, but if you insist we will give you a telephone number to an experienced person who will do it for a fee. We wish each of every resident a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

5. CITIZEN COMMENT:

Roger Reynolds, 702 66th Avenue, Seat Pleasant-The stripes are gone from the speed humps and cross walk.

Eddie Atkins, 511 71st Street, Seat Pleasant-Mr. Atkins stated that he will be leaving the community. He just got married and wife doesn't feel safe. The neighbors ran into car and didn't say anything. They have drug paraphernalia in the streets. He feels he must leave.

Eugene Kennedy, 6110 Addison Rd, Seat Pleasant-Mr. Kennedy thanked Ms. Sanders for the wonderful Veterans Day program. He is not for Ordinance 10-02, as the COLA aren't tied to performance evaluations. Councilwoman Gatling explained that Ordinance 10-02 was changed to release the COLA, and the evaluation has been separated from the COLA.

Christine Tapsoba, 6914 G Street, Seat Pleasant-Ms. Tapsoba stated that Mayor Grant educated her on the census, as she wasn't so sure of it. She wanted to know if we can put up signs explaining the importance of Census. She wants to know what can be done to entice the Police Officers to stay besides money. The stores in the mini mall on Martin Luther King don't clean the ice from in front of the stores. She stated the Code Enforcement Officer is doing an excellent job in getting the properties cleaned up. She said the Police Department is doing an excellent job in keeping the streets safe.

Councilmember Yeargin stated that a letter be sent to business owners and lot owner regarding cleaning the lot.

Jacqui Battle-500 70th Street, Seat Pleasant-Ms. Battle thanked everyone, as this year has been marvelous. They have been able to come up and make request that

hasn't fallen on death ears. The Ward has been having meetings. Thanks to Councilwoman Simms. The Council has been doing a marvelous job. Public Works has been doing an excellent job too. Mr. Ashton is wearing two hats, and still doing a good job. Excellent job to the Police Department on the fine job they are doing.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- None

7. NEW BUSINESS

- None

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1. Prince George's Community College Partnership Meeting, Wednesday, December 16, 2009; 9:30a.m., Council Chambers

8.2. Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard Education & Prayer Breakfast, Thursday, December 17, 2009, 7:30a.m.; Newton White House Mansion, Upper Marlboro, MD-Elected Officials ONLY!

ADJOURN-It was motioned by Councilwoman Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Simms to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dashaun Lanham
City Clerk